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First record of Bamenda Apalis *Apalis bamendae* for Nigeria

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Première mention de l'Apalis du Bamenda *Apalis bamendae* pour le Nigeria. Le 12 février 2013, un Apalis du Bamenda *Apalis bamendae* a été capturé et photographié dans la Forêt classée de Ngel Nyaki (07°05'N 11°04'E), à l'est du Nigeria. Il s'agit de la première mention pour le pays de cette espèce, qui était considérée comme endémique au Cameroun.

On 12 February 2013 at 11.10 hrs, we mist-netted a small, mainly pale grey warbler with a rufous 'face' at Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve (07°05'N 11°04'E), Taraba State, Nigeria, which we tentatively identified as Bamenda Apalis *Apalis bamendae* (Figs. 1–3). We forwarded photographs to Dr Shiwua Manu and Ron Demey, both of whom confirmed the identification.

This is the first record for Nigeria of Bamenda Apalis, which was considered endemic to Cameroon, where it is a not uncommon to locally common resident in the Bamenda highlands and the Adamawa Plateau (Borrow & Demey 2001). Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve is located at

the eastern edge of the Mambilla Plateau and is 45 km² in extent, of which c.7.5 km² comprises montane / submontane forest at altitudes of 1,400–1,600 m (Chapman & Chapman 2001). The forest is surrounded by overgrazed grassland and savannah (Dowsett-Lemaire 1989). It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and harbours several species restricted to the Cameroon Mountains Endemic Bird Area, including Western Mountain Greenbul *Andropadus tephrolaemus*, Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*, Black-capped Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus herberti*, Cameroon Sunbird *Cyanomitra oritis*, Yellow-breasted Boubou *Laniarius atroflavus* and Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani* (Ezealor 2001).



Figures 1–3. Bamenda Apalis / Apalis du Bamenda *Apalis bamendae*, Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve, Nigeria, 12 February 2013 (Charles A. Nsor)

Considering the occurrence of several other montane forest fragments on the Mambilla Plateau that may be suitable for Bamenda Apalis, it is recommended to search for the species at these sites and organise surveys to establish its population size.

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